



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 343

February Session, 2010

* ____SB00343TRA__031510__ *

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPROVEMENT OF PEDESTRIAN
SAFETY AT CROSSWALKS DESIGNATED BY TRAFFIC
AUTHORITIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-300 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

3 (a) The traffic authority shall have power to designate, by
4 appropriate official traffic control devices, as defined in section 14-297,
5 or markers, or by lines upon the surface of the highway, such
6 crosswalks and intersections as, in its opinion, constitute [an especial] a
7 danger to pedestrians crossing the highway including, but not limited
8 to, specially marked crosswalks in the vicinity of schools, which
9 crosswalks shall have distinctive markings, in accordance with the
10 regulations of the State Traffic Commission, to denote use of such
11 crosswalks by school children; and may maintain suitable signs located
12 at intervals along highways, particularly where there are no sidewalks,
13 directing pedestrians to walk facing vehicular traffic.

14 (b) At any intersection where special pedestrian-control signals
15 bearing the words "Walk" or "Don't Walk" are placed, pedestrians may
16 cross the highway only as indicated by the signal. At any intersection
17 where traffic is controlled by other traffic control signals or by police
18 officers, pedestrians shall not cross the highway against a red or "Stop"

19 signal and shall not cross at any place not a marked or unmarked
20 crosswalk. A pedestrian started or starting across the highway on a
21 "Walk" signal or on any such crosswalk on a green or "Go" signal shall
22 have the right-of-way over all vehicles, including those making turns,
23 until such pedestrian has reached the opposite curb or safety zone.

24 (c) Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 14-300c, at any
25 crosswalk marked as provided in subsection (a) of this section or any
26 unmarked crosswalk, provided such crosswalks are not controlled by
27 police officers or traffic control signals, each operator of a vehicle shall
28 grant the right-of-way, and slow or stop such vehicle if necessary to so
29 grant the right-of-way, to any pedestrian crossing the roadway within
30 such crosswalk, provided such pedestrian steps off the curb or into the
31 crosswalk at the entrance to a crosswalk or is within that half of the
32 roadway upon which such operator of a vehicle is traveling, or such
33 pedestrian steps off the curb or into the crosswalk at the entrance to a
34 crosswalk or is crossing the roadway within such crosswalk from that
35 half of the roadway upon which such operator is not traveling. No
36 operator of a vehicle approaching from the rear shall overtake and
37 pass any vehicle, the operator of which has stopped at any crosswalk
38 marked as provided in subsection (a) of this section or any unmarked
39 crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway. The operator of
40 any vehicle crossing a sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way to each
41 pedestrian and all other traffic upon such sidewalk.

42 (d) The operator of a motor vehicle who approaches or comes into
43 the immediate vicinity of a pedestrian who is blind, as defined in
44 subsection (a) of section 1-1f, carrying a white cane or a white cane
45 tipped with red, or a pedestrian being guided by a guide dog, shall
46 reduce speed or stop, if necessary, to yield the right-of-way to such
47 pedestrian. No person, except one who is blind, shall carry or use on
48 any street or highway, or in any other public place, a cane or walking
49 stick which is white in color or white, tipped with red.

50 (e) Any crosswalk designated by a traffic authority on or after
51 October 1, 2010, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be

52 required by such authority to have distinctive markings and signage
 53 and to have any control signals deemed necessary by such authority to
 54 provide sufficient time for the safe crossing of pedestrians.

55 [(e)] (f) The operator of any motor vehicle who violates this section
 56 shall be deemed to have committed an infraction and be fined ninety
 57 dollars.

58 [(f)] (g) In any civil action arising under subsection (c) or (d) of this
 59 section or sections 14-300b to 14-300d, inclusive, the doctrine of
 60 negligence per se shall not apply.

61 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The State Traffic Commission,
 62 in consultation with the Department of Transportation, shall develop
 63 safety standards for pedestrian crosswalks, in accordance with the
 64 provisions of subsection (e) of section 14-300 of the general statutes, as
 65 amended by this act. Such standards shall be applicable to all
 66 crosswalks, provided with respect to crosswalks designated prior to
 67 October 1, 2010, the commission and the department shall develop a
 68 schedule for implementing such standards. The department shall
 69 provide any funds available from federal funds received by the
 70 department under the Section 402 State and Community Highway
 71 Safety Grant Program for such implementation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	14-300
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*